



Allandale Neighbor

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

4TH OF JULY PARADE IS ON!

See you at 9 am sharp on
the 4th! (See page 7 for
more information)

What's the Deal with all the Benches?

Gillian Redfearn

You many have noticed a few painted benches along Shoal Creek Boulevard, and perhaps you have even taken a moment to sit on one of them. Some of these benches were created out of inspiration from a bigger move-

ment known as the Public Bench Project. Better known in San Francisco and introduced to some neighbors by local resident Adam Greenfield, the Public Bench

Project provides individuals with templates for building and decorating benches to be placed throughout communities. Placing benches throughout neighbor-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Lamar Scotties Lead by Example

Belinda Horton

Iwanted to let you know about a project that a great group of Lamar Middle School students took upon themselves recently. We thought y'all would like to hear about this!

Five Lamar students, led by brothers Devin and Jake Gramling, along with classmates Sam, Justin, and Lulu, decided to help clean up Shoal Creek. Justin's friend Liam was visiting from San Antonio and joined them.

It all started on January 1, when the Gramling family (who live in the Mueller neighborhood) had a discussion about how to help others and spread kindness in the community. This discussion turned into the Ripple Effect Project (R.E.P.) to demonstrate how volunteering

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Pond Fishing 101

By Charlie Montgomery

My son has really gotten in to fishing lately; mainly pond fishing. He loves to throw his rods in the back of his truck, go pick up his buddies, and find new places to fish around town. He says he uses a phone app called FishBrain to find the local public ponds they are fish-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Buy Nothing - Junk Day on Juniper Street

Dena Houston

When I was younger, one of my favorite books was *Junk Day on Juniper Street*, by Lillian Moore. It told the story of how some neighbors decided to put the stuff they no longer wanted out to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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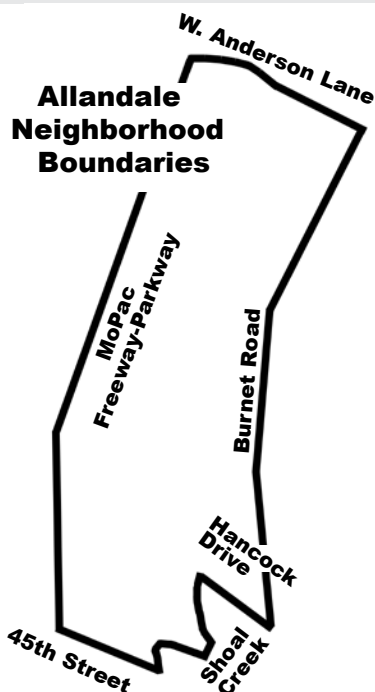
ANA Executive Committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center. General Membership meetings are held in April and October. (Meetings are currently held via Zoom)

Committees

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President's Letter

By Diana Wheeler, ANA President

(512) 699-1848 Allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com

Hello neighbors,

As more people get vaccinated against COVID-19, the ANA is happy to be able to promote more outside happenings!

June 5 - 13: There are volunteer events throughout the city for It's My Park Day. Austin Parks Foundation's website has the full list, with limited in-person registration opportunities.

July 4: The return of the neighborhood parade, which starts at the corner of Bullard Drive and White Rock Drive at 9:00 a.m.

June 3 - Aug 12: Our amazing ANA Social Committee has organized a summer series of smaller weekly events at various neighborhoods throughout Allandale. Please see the article in this newsletter or our website for full details on the Kona Ice, Amy's Ice Cream, and magic show dates and locations.

-- Diana

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Lamar Scotties Lead by Example

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

and kindness can have a ripple effect by multiplying one's efforts. Thinking about Lamar, where they are sixth-graders, they immediately thought of a creek cleanup day as their next random act of kindness. The group collected multiple bags of debris from all over Northwest Park, and weren't afraid of getting

wet in Shoal Creek. They also had an encounter with a local birder who spotted an unusual painted warbler!

Past projects have included writing thank-you letters to frontline responders and baking cookies for teacher appreciation week. They look forward to their next project! ☘

WE NEED YOU

to help on various committees!

Email allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com for more info.

All types of
positions
available

Pond Fishing 101

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

ing. What I would have given to have that type of technology when I was a kid!

I think most of us have had our own experiences with pond fishing. My first real experiences with pond fishing came when my family purchased some land out by the old Bergstrom Air Force base (now ABIA). Our neighbor to the left had cattle, and some tanks (ponds) to water them. He gave us permission to fish them whenever we wanted. The number of catfish we pulled out of those muddy old ponds was pretty impressive. For kids, a local neighborhood pond really opens their eyes to all kinds of fishing possibilities. It is a good place to learn the very basics, but can also be fun for all skill levels. Keep in mind that kids 16 and under don't need

a license to fish.

If you want to take your kids pond fishing, the very simplest of set-ups is really all you need: a Zebco rod-and-reel with a hook, bobber and worms. You can catch a ton of perch, catfish, and even some bass with this set-up. If you want to use artificial baits, I would recommend a plastic frog, early in the morning or afternoon. Frogs love a good pond and bass love to eat a good frog, so they go hand-in-hand. Actually, any type of topwater bait to emulate a dying baitfish or frog is a good idea. I would also recommend a plastic stick bait in a watermelon or dark color, and a fluke in a baitfish color. Both baits are a go-to for any body of water around here. For pond fishing, I would suggest downsizing



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your bait, especially if you are not having much luck with a larger bait.

Lastly, there are “bag limits” that restrict the number of fish you can keep from any given lake or pond. I would read up on bag limits on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website to get familiar with them. I am a pretty avid catch-and-release guy when it comes to small bodies of water; I want to make sure that the next person will get to enjoy the pond or small lake as much as I did. I know there are some nice local ponds in your neighborhood, and I hope that some of these tips help you catch a few.

Tight Lines,
Charlie Montgomery ☿

Buy Nothing – Junk Day on Juniper Street

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

the curb on a designated Saturday, and hire the junk man to come by at the end of the day to haul everything away. One neighbor loved a lamp someone set out, and took it. Another neighbor saw a table he liked, and took it. By the end of the day, the only thing left was an old rocking chair. The junk man looked at it with tired, loving eyes, and sat down in it to rest. He took it home. To me, this is the best recycling!

The Buy Nothing Project is a global network of community groups that encourages giving away (without selling or bartering) consumer goods and services, rather than throwing things away. It is accessed through Facebook and organized by neighborhoods. It is a modern-day version of *Junk Day on Juniper Street*.

For more information on the project, go to <https://buynothingproject.org/>. The Facebook page is a private group, but is easy to join.

My first experience using Buy Nothing was when a neighbor needed a computer keyboard. I had been waiting for the Austin Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center to reopen to take in my old computer and its components, but I instead gave the keyboard to my neighbor. He was so happy to get it, and I was so happy that it found a real home.

I have been very impressed with this project. During the February winter storm, neighbors were reaching out on Buy Nothing to offer food, clothing, charging stations, and many other things someone would need during this stressful event. Buy Nothing makes it feel like the old days, when neighbors reached out to help each other. ☿

Have you joined ANA's Newsgroup? Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/allandale/> to sign up.

Selling In Allandale.

Being an Allandale resident, I know first-hand why this neighborhood is the best place to call home. Both of my children are proud Gullett alumni, and we love the sense of community this neighborhood brings. I am the founder and principal of Juice Real Estate and have lived and sold real estate in 78757 since 2003, establishing a reputation as a top agent in central and northwest Austin. If you are considering selling your home or just have a question about real estate, do not hesitate to reach out.



Jason Heffron
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What's the Deal with all the Benches?

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hoods not only provides a comfortable resting spot to relax, but increases safety by encouraging people to remain in public space and keep their eyes on their surroundings. When painted, these benches not only become works of art, but often inspire a moment of pause, and conversation between neighbors.

Speaking of benches, we have to acknowledge the original community bench, the rainbow bench found at the intersection of Shoal Creek Boulevard and North Park Drive. Created and cared for by the Scarborough family, this particular bench, with its message, "Rest awhile. All are welcome," is a more than a bench; it is a symbol of a community that many of us want to live in.

We hope that others might want to jump in on this community effort, so anyone interested in hosting/building a



bench should contact Diana Wheeler for more information.

A bench-building template can be found on pages 12 and 13, or by visiting

here: https://publicbenchproject.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/bench_directions.pdf %

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Allandale Social

Allison Thompson, Allandale Social

Come and celebrate Independence Day with your Allandale neighbors and friends. We are so excited to be able to bring back the annual July 4th parade this year! Out of an abundance of caution, we will be skipping the carnival, but we look forward to bringing that back next year.

At the parade, you can register on the spot to vie for awards donated by our fabulous local area merchants. Just show up at the intersection of Bullard Drive and White Rock Drive at 8:30 a.m., and look for your category sign. Available categories you can participate in include floats, animals, antique & classic cars, bicycles, scooters/skateboards, strollers, and walkers!

Not marching? Just line up along Bullard Drive (between White Rock Drive and Treadwell Boulevard) to watch the procession. The parade will start moving at 9:00 a.m. sharp.

Please follow along for any updates on our Facebook page (Allandale Neighborhood Association), or sign up for email updates at allandaleneighbor.com. If you want to help or have any questions, email us at allandalesocial@gmail.com.

See you on the 4th! ☘

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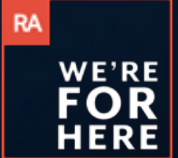


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Join us for our annual 4th of July parade!

Line up along Bullard Drive (between White Rock Drive and Treadwell Boulevard) to watch the procession. The parade will start moving at 9:00 a.m. sharp.



Allandale Summer Series

Happy Summer, Allandale! Please join us for a little fun and a treat on Thursday evenings throughout the summer. Special thanks to our sponsors, Debbie Trominski from Realty Austin, Amy's Ice Cream, and Peter the Adequate, for helping make this happen.

- **June 17:** Magic Show by Peter the Adequate, 7:00 p.m. at Northwest Park
- **June 24:** Kona Ice, 7:00 p.m. at White Rock Drive & Nasco Drive
- **July 1:** Bye Week -- see you at the Parade on July 4th!
- **July 8:** Amy's Ice Cream, 7:00 p.m. at Greenlawn Parkway & Daugherty Street
- **July 15:** Kona Ice, 7:00 p.m. at Shoalwood Avenue & Shoalmont Drive
- **July 22:** Kona Ice, 7:00 p.m. at Addison Avenue & Joyce Street
- **July 29:** Kona Ice, 7:00 p.m. at Silverleaf Drive & Yellowpine Terrace
- **Aug 5:** Amy's Ice Cream, 7:00 p.m. at Greenlawn Parkway & Daugherty Street

- **Aug 12:** Kona Ice, sponsored by Debbie Trominski from Realty Austin, 6:00 p.m. at Bullard Drive & Clarice Court

Please follow along on our Facebook page for any updates!

-- Allandale Social Committee ☿



Allandale Block Captains STILL Needed for 2021!

We are on a mission to get a block captain for every street in Allandale! Why? Because a block captain is an integral component of keeping our neighborhood safe, happy, and fun! The primary goal of a block captain is to create a sense of community on your street. This person will also help facilitate any needed information exchange between neighbors

and the Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA). Being a block captain is a one-year commitment from January to December. We know we are getting a late start for 2021, but your commitment will end on December 31, 2021.

Required Job Duties:

- Coordinate National Night Out for your block in October.
- Serve as a point of contact between your block and the ANA on issues related to safety, zoning, membership, parks, etc. We expect this to be minimal work, if any.
- Attend an annual block captains' meeting.

Optional Job Duties:

- Coordinate your block's participation in ANA events such as 4th of July parade, It's My Park Day, creek clean-ups, etc. New ANA events, post-pandemic, are being planned!
- Welcome new neighbors on behalf of your block and the ANA.
- Create events for your block (e.g. Halloween, children's activities).
- Create methods of communication for your block (a block-level listserv, phone tree, directory or shared contact info).

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If you are interested in being the 2021 block captain for your block, please email allandalocial@gmail.com for more information! z

Drive A Senior

Stephanie Lane, Executive Director, [Drive A Senior-ATX](#)

Have you ever been stuck at home for weeks with no transportation, wondering how you will get to the doctor or access food regularly? This is the reality of many Austin homebound seniors. According to the Texas Demographic Center, Texas has the third largest senior population in the country, and Travis County holds one of the largest population pockets of those seniors 65+. There are only

about 1,600 seniors currently registered with a senior transportation agency in the county, even though up to 23% of all 127,395 seniors may be homebound.

Drive A Senior-ATX has been providing free, volunteer-based transportation and other support services to seniors in Austin since 1985. They are dedicated to ensuring that no senior goes without access to healthy food or transportation to medical appointments. This requires a lot of volunteers! Lately, they have seen a surge in new client registration and ride requests. Many older adults are fully vaccinated and want to resume attending to their health needs and going to the grocery store after a year of isolation. They have seen a 99% increase in rides since

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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Quick Bites

Robert Mace

Learned a bit of foodie history recently about Jimmy Buffett and our neighborhood. Back in 1976, Buffett had his first margarita at Lung's Cocina del Sur on Anderson Lane, which is the present location of High 5. Buffett was so inspired by the concoction that he wrote his famous song, "Margaritaville," about it. Speaking of Margaritaville, Austin appears to be Game On! after the wide availability of vaccines and the governor's mask dropping. It's pert near impossible to get into Fonda San Miguel without a reservation, and we barely made it into Chez Zee without a reservation on a recent outing. And, yes, as you can see, we have returned to the in-dining scene in Austin! Not all restaurants have opened their dining halls to guests yet, and it's difficult to assess what is required where in Austin. For our part, we're following what an establishment wants.

The only new opening I'm aware of is Wing Stop at 2900 West Anderson Lane, but much newness is afoot. Project Pollo, a chickenless chicken joint, is opening up at 2438 West Anderson Lane (near Hopdoddy) on (as reported on their web site) June 21. China Family Express, a new concept from the highly-rated China Family, is opening at 2525 West Anderson Lane, where Wild Chix & Waffles used to be. Houston sammich shop Local Foods is coming to 5350 Burnet Road, the old Bonhomie location. Stiim Kitchen, a "commercial bakery," according to my sleuthing, is opening up at 3301 Steck Avenue, in the old Brama location.

Yard Bar has temporarily closed its kitchen, presumably in preparation of the arrival of Fat City, The Peached Tortilla's slider side hustle, later this summer. Kitchen United added Mulan Kitchen (rice and noodle bowls) to the mix while losing seven kitchens, including Bombay Walla, Lo Pan's Kitchen, Mission Street Burrito, Pastabilities, Plow-burger, Proteinhouse, and Senor Churro. Due to a large mixed-use project going in at 7113 Burnet Road, The Local Post Pub has closed up shop. The Sonic Drive-In at 4929 Burnet Road closed up, as did the Growler Room. TGF and Taco Sweets rolled out of the trailer park at 5000 Burnet Road, while Lick It Up (Mexican street food via El Paso), Cornelia's (Southern), and Neighbor Coffee & Friends rolled in.

Neighborhood alumnus JewBoy Burgers entered Yelp's list of the best restaurants in Texas at numero seven. Readers of the Austin Chronicle voted JewBoy Subs (review in this issue) as the Best New Restaurant in Austin. Those readers also bequeathed honors to Pinthouse Pizza (Best Brewery), Jack Allen's Kitchen (Best Weekend Brunch), Amy's Ice Creams (Best Ice Cream and Dessert), and Torch's (Best Cheap Date). The Chronicle's critics gave a hearty nod to Cabo Bob's brisket

nachos. Austin Monthly included Barley Swine as one of its Best of the Best. Allandale was well represented in the Austin American-Statesman's list of Best Chicken Wings with Hi Wings, Le Bleu, Chi'lantro, Cover 3, and Lucy's Fried Chicken making the bird call. Eater included Edis Chocolates (at 3808 Spicewood Springs Road) and Asahi Imports (6105 Burnet Road) as good places to satisfy your sweet teeth.

For links, color photos, and a bonus review of Guy Fieri's Flortown Kitchen, please visit www.austinwanderlist.com. ☘



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What's the Deal with all the Benches?

SEE ARTICLE ON FRONT PAGE

Materials

2 x 4s (Kiln dried is preferable. \$2.18 each for 8 ft's at Home Depot), 6 pcs 6 ft long (or whatever length you want the bench to be up to 7 ft max) + 1/8" (inspect for straightness as it does make for better sitting)

- 2 pcs 15"
- 2 pcs 23-7/8"
- 2 pcs 26-5/8"
- 2 pcs 30-1/4"
- 2 pcs 3-1/2"
- ± 1/16"

If you use 8 ft pieces and make the bench 6' long, you will need 8 pieces. 5/16" Carriage Bolts

- 8 at 3-1/2"
- 2 at 5"
- 10 5/16-18 nuts and flat washers
- #10 deck screws x 2-1/2" long, 24 pcs.

Needed Tools

- Jigsaw
- Power Drill
- 6" screw clamps (two)
- 5/16" Dia Drill Bit
- 5/32" Dia. Drill Bit
- Bench Template pieces

HOW TO MAKE THE DUDERSTADT BENCH



2. Take a ball point pen and mark the contours and angles.
3. Unclamp the templates and using the jigsaw, cut along the contours and angles just removing the ink marks. This is a critical part of the process so be sure you have lots of light and take your time. The cuts should be perfectly vertical.
4. Using the jig with side stops and two small holes, hold this on the ends of the long pieces and drill through the long boards with a 5/32" drill. Clamping is not necessary for these.

Assembly

1. Using the carriage bolts assembly the two supports: (symmetry is not essential on these for function)
2. Stand the supports up, using chairs or friends to lean them against, about 5 ft apart. Place the first long 2 x 4 on the front of the "seat", line it up with the front of the bench, the holes lined up in the center of the seat, and clamp. Leave one hole exposed. Do the same at both ends and check that the board is perpendicular to the supports and drive the two deck screws home.
3. Once your sure all is square, drive home the next two screws.
4. Place the next board, leaving a 3/4" gap between the boards. Use the thin side of the provided shims. Clamp the board in place at both ends and attach with deck screws.
5. The third "seat" board should be 7/8" from the middle board. Use the shims in the wide direction.
6. For the seat back, the top board should extend above the support by 1/4". Clamp and make sure the holes line up in the center of the support.
7. The two lower seat back boards should be separated by 3/4" using the provided shims.

Sit down and relax with a friend!

Fabrication

With the pieces cut to length (+ 1/16") place the templates on the pieces and clamp together. As the actual dimensions of 2 x 4" varies widely from the 1.5" x 3.5" spec, line up the template and wood to the indicated reference corners as noted on the template drawing.

1. Drill through the 5/16" holes (PLEASE let the drill stop rotating before placing the drill bit fully into the holes in the template, you will destroy the template otherwise)

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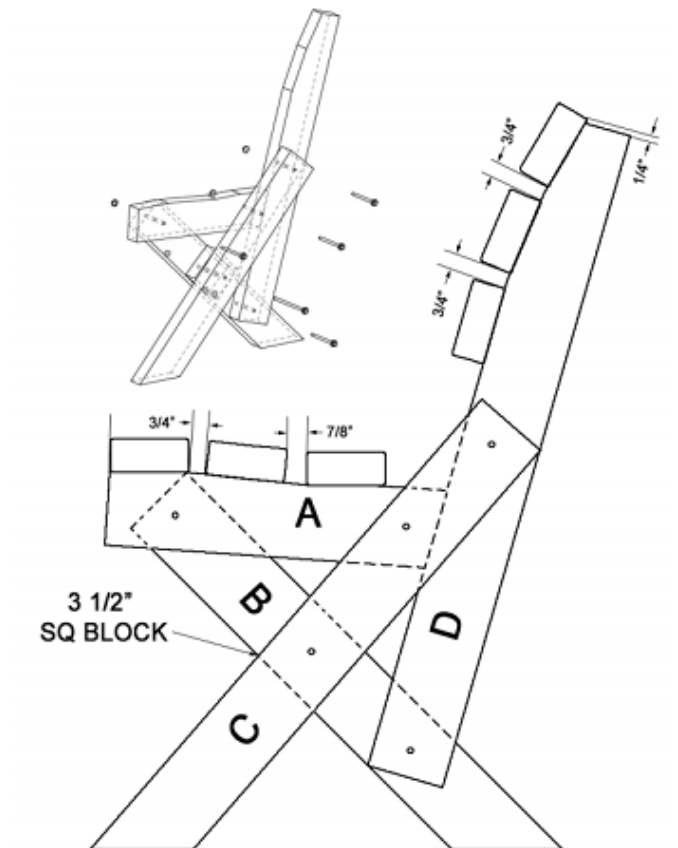
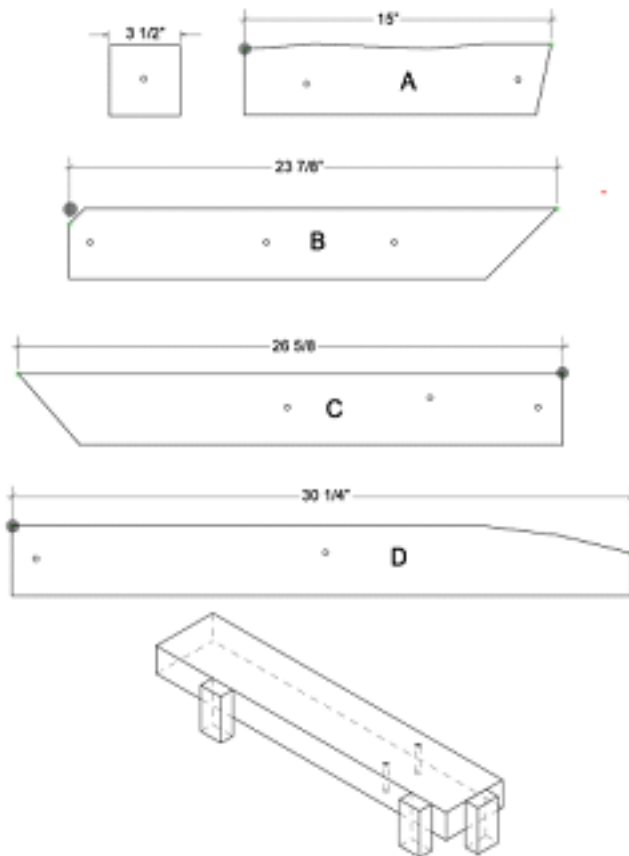
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TEMPLATE PIECES



URBAN COYOTES

They're active from dusk to dawn. They'll eat just about anything: cat & dog food that people leave outside, scraps from open compost piles & trash bins, rodents, and, sadly, small pets if they are easy to get to.

As land is developed and the natural environment shrinks, coyotes adapt to a smaller territory, making contact with people more likely—and frightening. There is no such thing as coyote relocation—when they are trapped, they are euthanized. But we can coexist with coyotes and other predators (foxes, hawks, owls, raccoons) that feed on birds and small mammals.

Be extra vigilant if you walk very early in the morning or after dark. It's natural to freeze when encountering a coyote. Instead, practice hazing so coyotes don't become comfortable around people.

BEST PRACTICES TO AVOID & MANAGE COYOTE INTERACTIONS

SECURE ENVIRONMENT TO PROTECT PETS

- Keep pets indoors & accompany them outdoors
- Walk pets on a 4-6 ft. leash
- Provide secure shelter for rabbits & chickens
- Regularly pick up nuts & fruit under trees
- Securely cover compost piles & trash bins
- Eliminate accessible water sources

HAZING TO SCARE COYOTES AWAY

- Make eye contact with the coyote
- Loom large—wave your arms around
- Make noise—bang things, shout, blow a whistle
- Toss pebbles or small sticks
- Slowly back away
- Call 311 to report the sighting & location

For more information: www.austintexas.gov/department/coyotes-central-texas

JewBoy Sub Shop

Robert Mace

It was good day for Allandale when Mo Pittle rolled his JewBoy Burgers truck into a spot at 5000 Burnet Road, and a bad day for Allandale when he rolled out (although he rolled into brick-n-mortar nearby on Airport Boulevard). When the bride and I first tried the burger truck, we were in love, both with the sloppy diner-n-dive burgers intersecting Jewish, El Pasoan, and New Mexican cuisine, but also with Mo Pittle, whose energy and friendliness convinces you that anything is possible. So it was a very good day for Allandale when Pittle announced he was returning to the area with the JewBoy Sub Shop at 6701 Burnet Road, the former location of Pour House Pub.

Pittle wanted to serve something caterable, and his burgers—large, in charge, and crashing like a barge in the Suez Canal—weren't it. So subs were the answer. But don't worry: Mo's subs are also large and in charge, but more manageable (yet still somehow out of control). JewBoy

Sub Shop offers hot and cold sandwiches, a few sides, and a couple soups. And Pittle has leveraged the old Pour House bar to offer a range of local brews.

The sammich getting most of the early Instas is Lou's Fried Meatball Parm (old skool meatballs fried then covered with tomato gravy with grilled onions and peppers covered in melted mozzarella on an Amorosa roll; \$10). This is a sammich to behold with deep beef and tomato flavor and meatballs the size of monkey heads sprinkled with chunky parmesan. The airy Amorosa roll lovingly complements and contains the meatball mayhem. If you don't roll with rolls, one of the sides is three of these beautiful balls of meat. If you are a veg-head, there's the Eggplant Parmesan Sub (\$10), which is the Chinese eggplant version of the meatball sammich.

Puff's Pastrami Philly (house-made pastrami, grilled onions, melted Swiss, and yellow mustard on an Amorosa roll; \$13) is the star of the show, since the pastrami is expertly house-smoked and as tender as late-stage Elvis Presley. The sandwich soothes with smokey, moo-forward beefiness, with an occasional sparkling jab of

mustard. On the cold side is the Smoked Chicken Salad Sando (house-smoked chopped chicken thighs, Hatch green chile, tortilla strips, and celery, tossed in mayo and served on Martin's potato bread; \$10). The chicken clucks with a smoky blush while the green chile kicks NewMex style between the yellow buzz of tater bread. You can add fries (\$4) and/or housemade chips (\$2.50) to your sandwich (although some orders have built-in chips).

The location retains the large outdoor patio for plague-friendly dining, and take-out orders deliver well. The staff is friendly and probably play speed metal after hours. And megaprops to Mo for the compostible take-out containers. Unfortunately, parking can be a challenge, so you may have to hike in if the limited spots in the garage are taken. In fact, that's not a bad idea to hike in so you can create something of a calorie deficit before entering.

JewBoy Sub Shop, 6701 Burnet Road, (512) 294-2279, <http://jewboysubshop.com/>, full color review at www.austinwanderlist.com ☞

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Drive a Senior


CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

May 2020, as seniors feel safe and are eager to experience normal life once again. They currently do not have enough volunteer drivers to keep up with the steady surge of requests. Austin's aging population is projected to grow almost 100% in the next 20 years (Texas Demographic Center, 2018), setting an unprecedented need for more senior services, especially to those who are isolated and homebound.

Volunteer drivers are an essential part of their "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" motto, a culture that proves to help eliminate social isolation, declining health conditions, and food insecurities for homebound seniors. Volunteers build meaningful rela-

tionships with elderly adults while providing a vital service to the community. Coordinating is done through a smartphone or computer, and schedules are flexible to accommodate the volunteer's daily life. You simply sign on to their platform, see what rides may fit in your schedule, and choose when and whom you drive. It is great for retirees looking for regular interactions with neighbors, busy parents who only have a couple of free hours a month, or college students whose schedules constantly change.


If you are interested in learning more, please visit www.driveasenioratx.org, call (512) 472 - 6339, or email at info@driveasenioratx.org. Orientation and training are done at your convenience online. ☼



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Gullett Good News

Amy Rostvold

Well, guys, we did it. The Gullett Elementary 2020-2021 school year extravaganza came to a close last week with a bang -- literally. Rip-roaring thunderstorms and an unplanned fire drill brought the most memorable and extraordinary school year to a ceremonious close last Thursday. Our fifth-graders were able to participate in a lovely (and a little drizzly) promotion ceremony outside on the blacktop, and all of the kids celebrated with graduating seniors who returned to Gullett to bid farewell to their alma mater elementary school community. We are forever grateful to the Gullett community of parents, teachers, custodial staff, cafeteria staff, administrators, office staff, and PTA members who summoned their collective energy, creativity, time, and resources to create a safe, loving, and exceptional learning environment for our children. We learned this year about strength and the remarkable resilience of children, who never complained about

wearing masks all day, and who had to adapt all year to ever-changing schedules, learning from home, social distancing, eating outside on pillowcases, the fear of contagion, and the ever-present "unknown" of the future. There are some physical reminders of this year that will linger long after the summer's close -- a collection of outdoor learning spaces and handmade outdoor benches, newly painted murals on our portable buildings, our yearbook, with its catalogue of smiling (masked) faces, and this year's fifth-grade legacy project mural that now adorns the building between the kindergarten and fourth-grade ramps, complete with a face-masked Tina the tortoise! And there are the memories and moments that are indelibly etched in our hearts and minds -- we will most certainly carry these experiences with us for years to come. I know that we have come through this storm stronger and better than before, and we are now ready to conquer the world -- or at least the next school year. Onward, Geckos! ☼

McCallum News

We are still seeking a writer for the McCallum column in each issue, and we welcome Mac parents OR students! In the meantime, check the website for current information (mccallumhs.com) or follow Mac Journalism online (macshieldonline.com) or on Instagram. The Mac counselors' website is also a great reference: (<https://www.maccounselors.com/rising-9th-grade>). ☼

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The Neighborhood Funnies Cartoon Contest!

Neighbors, we are starting a regular cartoonist contest! The winning cartoon will be published in the next newsletter cycle (newsletter goes out every two months).

The rules are simple:

- Cartoons must make the editor and team audibly chuckle.
- Cartoons must be related to our neighborhood in some form or fashion.
- No political or religious content, please, even if you think it will get chuckles.
- Nothing vulgar or offensive (not just to you, but to anyone in our community).
- There is no age limit; we welcome submissions by ALL.
- Cartoonists must reside in the neighborhood.

How to submit a cartoon:

- Send cartoon images to editor@allandaleneighbor.com
- Please include your name or the name of the artist for credit. If you want to remain anonymous, we are okay with that, but give us your "artist name."
- We'd like to be able to include some sort of bio on the artist as well.
- How long the artist has lived in Allandale.
- Where the artist is originally from (It's okay if it's California. We promise!)
- If under 18 years old, I think it would be cool to have age of the artist.
- Any other fun and interesting facts you want to include (I can't promise the extras will go to print, but if there is space, we'll try to make it happen).

That's all for now! We really hope to see some cartoons in the inbox, and we look forward to highlighting more of our creative and comedic neighbors! ☼

Got Gas?

ANA Safety Committee

At the June ANA Board of Directors meeting, two representatives from Texas Gas Service gave a presentation about safety and natural gas.

- Call 811 at least 48 hours before digging. Your yard will be marked with spray paint. If it is not, call again and give them four hours to mark your yard.
- Do not use old marks.
- Marks are approximate and don't reveal depth of gas lines below.

Call 911 if you notice:

- Smell -- of rotten eggs
- Sound -- you hear hissing
- Sight -- you see bubbling through the grass or dead grass in one area.

The number for Texas Gas Service is (800) 959-5325. ☼

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Look Out For Your Neighbors

Amanda Cagle

My favorite place these days is my front porch. It looks out over Shoal Creek Boulevard, so I get to watch and wave to kids, dog walkers, and cyclists as they pass by. But it's also made me acutely conscious of how dangerous interactions between those users are. Last weekend, at the crosswalk across Shoal Creek Boulevard by the Great Northern Dam dog park, a cyclist barreled through, passing between a mother with a stroller and her toddler scooting along on a bike with training wheels. He jostled the little boy and almost knocked him over in the road. It was terrifying for all involved.

Now, I very much doubt that the cyclist got up that morning and thought, "I want to take down a toddler on my bike ride today." Maybe he was in a hurry and thought he could make it safely. Or he just wasn't prepared to stop because he was clipped in and moving quickly. It doesn't matter. What does matter is that we, all of us, need to be more aware and more cautious as we move around our busy neighborhood. In particular, we need to pay attention to and yield to anyone going more slowly than we are. We need to protect our Vulnerable Road Users. This means that cars yield to anyone going slower than them, which includes cyclists and pedestrians. It also means that experienced cyclists yield to less-experienced cyclists, as well as pedestrians. And we all need to watch out for and protect the kids.

It takes all of us paying extra attention and being willing to go a bit slower and especially being ready to stop on a dime, but the payoff is that we keep our Allandale roads safe for everyone -- cars, adults on bikes, kids on bikes, moms with strollers, dog walkers, toddlers -- all the people that make Allandale a community we want to live in. ☼

Neighborhood Watch

Julie Peckham

Yard signs

The ANA Safety Committee has been working on creating yard signs for neighborhood residents to put in their yards, especially along busier streets in the neighborhood. The committee narrowed it down to four designs that remind all to:

- At Night Use a Light
- Be Prepared to Stop
- Share The Road
- Stop Signs Are For Everyone

The signs have visuals as well. We hope to have these printed soon, and they will be available at various neighborhood events this summer. ☼

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Friendly Reminder: Stay Vigilant

Brett Davis

On occasion, I receive notifications from Nextdoor about different things going on in our area, from charitable activities to lost animals to petty crime that has impacted our community. I consider myself to be cognizant of my surroundings and always ensure that our home is secure. Unfortunately, in April, for the first time since moving to Austin, our garage door didn't get shut one evening. Right before sunrise, a few opportunistic individuals drove by the house and decided to help themselves to some of the items in our garage. One of our neighbors saw the lights on in our garage early in the morning, knew this was abnormal, and notified us immediately. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in catching and tracking the criminals down. We have heard stories of similar circumstances with unlocked cars being rifled through, but have never experienced this firsthand.

This article is not being written to scare anyone, but is meant to provide a reminder to be vigilant and double-check the doors to your cars, houses, and garages during the day, and especially in the evenings. If you see anything that looks out of place at a neighbor's home, don't be shy about reaching out and letting them know, so they can hopefully avoid issues like this in the future. While everyone is going to make mistakes or forget to close something properly at some point, as a community, we can all help each other in making our neighborhood a safer place by keeping an eye out and reaching out to our neighbors if we see opportunities to help them.

Our APD District Representative is Officer Darrell Grayson, (512) 974-5242, darrell.grayson@austintexas.gov

ANA Safety Committee: Carlene Wegmann, Amanda Cagle, Stephanie Ryan, and Julie Peckham ☼

Lettuce Recycle!

Dena Houston

Questions from our readers:

Is cellophane recyclable? Cellophane is not recyclable. It must go into the trash cart. There is no recycling market for cellophane.

How clean does aluminum foil have to be to be recycled? Recycling contamination is an important concern. Therefore, aluminum foil must be clean and dry to be recycled in the blue bin. Clean means no visible food or grease on the foil. Please be sure to have at least a two-inch ball of foil before placing it in your blue bin.

If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to recycling@hpbw-bana.org.

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website that offers help in finding out how to recycle specific items: <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>.

Please Remember, When in Doubt – Throw it Out! ☼

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My Friends Band ATX brings Music and Joy to Woodview Ave

Brett Davis

Over the last year, closures have limited many of the activities we could do but outdoor social distanced gatherings have helped to provide a silver lining. That silver lining has been that our neighborhood and especially many of the families on our street (and surrounding blocks) have gotten to know each other much better. As we are now able to gather safely, we had the opportunity to bring the neighborhood together for an outdoor concert which provided a much needed release and somewhat of a celebration.

One of the band members, Roland Zamarron, lives in our neighborhood and he and his band, My Friends Band ATX, wanted to give everyone an uplifting moment to enjoy each others company and some jams. Last month, My Friends Band ATX, a local Austin band who has played around town for many years, performed for almost four hours to bring the neighborhood together. There was something for everyone as they covered numerous songs such as Chain of Fools by Aretha Franklin, Folsom Prison Blues by Johnny Cash, Separate Ways by Journey, and You Shook Me All Night Long by AC/DC, which gave us all an incredibly memorable event.

One of the unique things about My Friends Band ATX is that they are true to their name. They invite friends to per-



Performers Pictured left to right: Lee Thompson (Drums), Roland Zamarron (Bass), Sanjay Vrudhula (Guitar), Len Sweatman (Keyboard, Vocals), Lanae Donovan (Lead Vocals),

form with them, and during this concert they kept with this tradition and invited other musicians from the neighborhood to join the show. To add to the entertainment, the neighborhood juggling unicyclist, Noble Feldman, also stopped by to provide everyone something else to smile about.

While a concert may have seemed normal in 2019, this was the first time in quite some time that many of us have heard live music. There was the laughter of neighborhood kids and the chatter of many families seated around the block enjoying the positive vibes coming from friends, neighbors, and passersby. This was a great way for us to begin what is hopefully a "return to normalcy" and

enjoy the company of our friends and family very differently than we did in 2020. We truly are fortunate to have such talented neighbors who are willing to spend time and exert the effort to give us all a reason to smile. As Bob Seger said in Old Time Rock and Roll, we "still like that old time rock and roll, that kind of music just soothes the soul," and thanks to the members of My Friends Band ATX we all got to have a few hours of live music soothing our souls!

You can check out more about My Friends Band ATX on Facebook and Instagram at: <https://www.facebook.com/MyFriendsBandATX/>, <https://www.instagram.com/Mfbatx/> ☞



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Community Garden Leaders, Park Volunteers Needed

Mary Fero and ANA Parks Committee

As life returns to a pre-COVID measure of normalcy, many of us are exploring ways to re-engage in community events, social gatherings, and neighborhood activities. Allandale's Parks, Recreation, and Greenspace Committee has choices for you! From taking part in Sheffield Northwest Park Vision Plan to taking on leadership roles with the proposed Community Garden at Northwest Rec Center or on the ANA Parks Committee, we welcome your involvement.

Community Garden

For much of last year, COVID restrictions slowed progress on the proposal to develop a community garden at Northwest Recreation Center. After receiving an OK from the City and support from Austin Parks Foundation for the concept, plans were delayed, pending approval to install a water tap at the site. The good news is that the city staff member coordinating our request is now working with PARD and Austin Water to explore options.

As soon as a viable solution is identified, the garden's development will be ready to move forward. But first we need leaders to fill positions on the garden's governing non-profit to replace others who have stepped away.

If you are interested in serving on the garden's steering council, or if you have landscaping, plumbing, or gardening expertise or advice to contribute, your involvement would be invaluable. Please contact Kata Carbone at kata@utexas.edu for additional information.

Sheffield Northwest Park Vision Plan

Thanks to Allandale neighbors who have participated in the Northwest Park Vision Plan process. In all, 534 park enthusiasts participated in April and May in two community surveys. Their comments helped to establish a profile of park users and the favorite amenities and activities we enjoy.

Results from those surveys were presented on May 4 at **Community Meeting #1: What We've Heard**.

On June 15, **Community Meeting #2: Proposed Site Concepts** gives the first look at possible updates to the park.

Finally, on August 3, we'll learn what changes are most likely when **Community Meeting #3: Draft Final Vision Plan** takes place.

You can register to participate in the final Zoom meetings from the link to the Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park Vision Plan at <http://www.austintexas.gov/sheffieldNWpark>

Recordings of previous meetings (along with slide presentations and related background information) also are available.

Your ongoing support and participation is appreciated! There's still time to share your voice and help shape the direction of the park for the future.

ANA Parks Committee Members

The ANA Parks, Recreation, and Greenspace committee invites ideas from neighbors and park friends for projects and activities. We also would welcome additional members to serve on the parks committee. ☼

Bug Off!

Wizzie Brown

Mosquito Repellents

Mosquitoes are out in masses, and since they are capable of disease transmission, it is important that you protect yourself when spending time outside. Of course, you can wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt in light colors to reduce the number of mosquitoes that can reach your skin when outside, but this is not always the option people choose with temperatures on the rise. Another option to protect yourself is insect repellent.

Repellent should only be applied to clothing and exposed skin; do not apply repellent underneath clothing! If you want to apply repellent to your face, spray your hands with repellent and rub it onto your face. Do not spray repellent directly into your face or near eyes or mouth. Make sure to apply repellent outdoors. Do not allow children to handle repellents, and seek advice from a physician regarding insect repellent use for children under two years of age. Wash hands before eating, smoking, or using the restroom.

To reduce disease transmission from mosquitoes, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends using a product registered with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) containing one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), para-methane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone.

DEET, also known as N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide or N, N-dimethylbenzamide, was developed by the U.S. Army in 1946 to protect soldiers in insect-infested areas. Pesticides containing DEET have been used by the public since 1957. Products containing DEET should not be used on children younger than two months of age (read the label and check with your pediatrician if you have questions). DEET has a slight odor and may have a greasy feel to some people. It may damage plastic, rubber, vinyl, or synthetic fabrics. DEET may be irritating to the eyes and skin, and comes in a wide variety of concentrations, so choose one that will work best for your situation.

Picaridin was first made in the 1980s, and resembles a natural compound called piperine (which is found in plants used to produce black pepper). Picaridin has been used in Europe and Australia for many years, but has only been in the U.S. since 2005. Picaridin is non-greasy and odorless.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



Bug Off!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

IR-3535, or 3-[N-Butyl-N- acetyl]-aminopropionic acid, ethyl ester, was developed in the mid-1970s and became registered for use in the U.S. in 1999. It is registered as a biopesticide by the EPA, because it is functionally identical to a naturally occurring substance (an amino acid). It may dissolve or damage plastics and may be irritating to the eyes.

Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) and PMD (para-menthane-3,8-diol) are essentially the same thing; PMD is the synthesized (lab-created) version of oil of lemon eucalyptus. “Pure” or “essential” oil of lemon eucalyptus is not labeled as a repellent and has not undergone testing, and should not be used as a repellent product.

OLE/PMD has been on the market in the U.S. since 2002. OLE/PMD should not be used on children younger than three years of age. The natural product (OLE) has known allergens within it, while the synthetic version (PMD) has less of a risk of allergens. This product is classified as a biopesticide. OLE/PMD has a varying range of residual effectiveness, some offering about 20 minutes of protection, while other products may last up to two hours.

The product 2-undecanone is also known as methyl nonyl ketone or IBI-246. It is a colorless oil that can either be produced synthetically or extracted from plants such as rue, cloves, ginger, straw-

berries, or wild grown tomatoes. This product is fairly new.

Many factors play into how long a repellent will last for a person. Some of these are:

- The concentration (or percent of active ingredient) of the product. You can find the percentage on the product label.
- Person's attractiveness. Some people are more attractive to mosquitoes than others (and no scientific research has proven that it is because of eating garlic, taking vitamin B, using tobacco products, etc.). A person's genetic code plays a large part in what makes a person attractive to mosquitoes.
- Frequency and uniformity of application. In other words, how often is the repellent applied and how good of coverage did you get?
- Activity level of the person. The more active the person is, the more sweat they produce, which can cause the repellent to wash off the surface of the skin.

As a word of caution, there are products that combine sunscreen and insect repellent. The CDC recommends that if you need sunscreen and repellent, that you choose two separate products. Sunscreen should be applied more often than repellents. ☼

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Letters to the Editor:

We'd love for readers to submit newsletter ideas, stories, and reactions to articles

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Real Estate Round-Up

Debbie Trominski

Real estate is a hot topic these days, and Austin has been leading the way nationally in market demand. Economists and industry experts agree that this is not a bubble on either a national or a local level. The buyer demand, supply shortage, and subsequent price increases are based on fundamentals, as opposed to speculation. In 2007 - 2008, the primary causes of the bubble were low down payments, adjustable-rate mortgages, and an oversupply of housing. Contrast that with 2021, where there are only 1.04 million homes on the market nationally, versus 4 million in July 2007! Likewise, current down payments are averaging nearly 16%, and buyers are locking in fixed-interest rates at truly historic lows. Another reassuring number is to compare foreclosure rates between 2008 and today. Nationally, in March 2008, there were nearly 235K foreclosures. Looking at March 2021, that number is under 12K.

What does that mean for our neighborhood? You might have guessed it -- fewer homes are going on the market, and they are selling considerably faster and for quite a bit more than they were YTD 2020. According to the Austin Board of Realtors, the number of Allandale homes sold has decreased by 20%, the average price has increased by 23%, and the days on market have decreased by 55% YTD 2021. It's a dizzying time in real estate! I have not seen the market this competitive since I got my license, way back in 2003. ☺

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ANA Membership

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